

Application Number 10/594,777
AMENDMENT of January 4, 2012
In reply to Office Action of October 4, 2011

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0037] of the published application (page 8 between lines 11 and 16 of the application as filed) with the following amended paragraph.

[0037] At the main deck level (FIG. 1(d) and FIG. 5 show this most clearly), a retractable working platform 132 is provided for handling such modules and connecting them to suspended pipe, for example. This platform is associated with a hang off clamp [[133]] in a known manner. Similarly, an A-frame 134 is mounted on a raised working deck 136 for further versatility in handling objects other than continuous pipe cable, this being best seen in FIGS. 3 and 4.

Please replace paragraph [0043] of the published application (page 10 between lines 9 and 15 of the application as filed) with the following amended paragraph.

[0043] It will be noted how the positioning of tensioner 204 on structure 202 allows the pipeline end termination (PLET) or other bulky module 130 to be accommodated in line between the outlet of the tensioner 204 and the retractable working platform 132. Hang off clamp [[133]] is used for suspending the pipeline (234 in FIG. 2) while this operation is conducted. Tensioner 204 can open to the position shown in the drawings, and winch 214 can be used to assist in manipulating module 130 into line, and for other abandonment and recovery operations.

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Please replace paragraphs [0053] and [0054] of the published application (page 13 between lines 10 and 31 of the application as filed) with the following amended paragraphs.

[0053] Firstly it will be seen in FIG. 6(a) that the extension of the raised working deck 6136 is visible, and supported below by a fixed structure 6300. Radius controller segments 6220 and 6210 are fitted on top of a removable module 6208, but in this example the winch 6214 is located lower in the module 6208, and it co-operates with a sheave [[6302]] mounted in the radius controller section 6220. The functions function of these elements is the same as in FIG. 1, however.

[0054] The structure is again moved from upright to horizontal by pivoting about a pivot 6236, and in this example the hydraulic ram 6304 responsible for this movement is shown (in practice two or more rams will be provided and operate in parallel). In this second example, however, the pivot point 6236 is not fixed with respect to the deck, but is moveable. Specifically, pivot 6236 is at the end of an arm 6306, which in turn is connected to the deck at a pivot 6308. Ram 6304 acts not between the structure 202 and the deck, but between the structure 202 and an intermediate point on arm 6306. As will be illustrated with reference to FIG. 7(a) to (h), this allows the same [[ram]] arm 6306 to perform the two actions of pivoting the structure down to horizontal and retracting it inboard to make room for the overboarding sheave 6242, while also separating those actions. This provides more design freedom than the single pivot 236 in the first example. The articulated structure 6202/6306 can be moved using significantly less powerful

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rams than would be required to move the structure 202 as a unit. Depending on the exact layout, it may also allow the heavy tensioner 6204 and the working deck 6136 to be mounted lower, aiding stability of the vessel overall.